

Redeemer Review

The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer

February, 2008

From our Interim Vicar:

Dear Redeemer friends,

It's Sunday January 27, and I'm sitting in the office at Redeemer, watching the rain come down, and finishing up various administrative tasks before giving Sue Clark a call so she can come over and let me give her my set of church keys.

It's only been four and a half months since I preached my first sermon at Redeemer, and we've had a lot of fun and come a long way in that short period of time. For my part, I am grateful for the opportunity to have served such a faithful and fun community of friends. My time spent with Redeemer has been a blessing to me, and as I have expressed to many of you in person over the past few weeks, it is not without some sadness that I make my way over the hill to St John's in Ross. (And I know that Marin is small, and the distance from here to there smaller; we'll see each other again.)

And! It's a good time for transition: Next Sunday (February 3) is when we hear of the Transfiguration of Jesus (placed in the lectionary the week before Lent as a nod to medieval notions of purification). The holy fast of Lent begins on February 6, and with it a period of reflection and deep prayer as we prepare for the high point of the Christian year: Holy Week. Many of us grew up with simplistic notions of what it means to walk the pilgrim's way of Lent: usually having to do with not eating or drinking something that we really really like. The penitential dominance of the middle ages still colors our thinking: God must want us to suffer a little bit to prove that we're worthy, or something like that.

But Lent isn't about suffering. It's about focusing our attention on the thing that really matters: God's limitless love for the world. Speaking for myself, my days are filled with so many distractions, and such internal chatter fills my head as to prevent any regular acknowledgment of the most basic and miraculous fact: today I am alive and in the presence of God.

Liturgical reformers are often accused of trying to make God "more accessible" to people. My friend Rick Fabian has countered that, on the contrary, the work of all prayer is to make *ourselves* more accessible to God, who pursues us with a lover's fervor, endlessly making gestures in our direction which we, in our distraction, miss. Taking time, or making space, or whatever it is that we need in order to hear the still, small voice of God speaking peace and reconciliation to us requires a LOT of discipline. More than I can usually muster. But in Lent we make a special pledge to do a little less — to listen rather than talk, to observe rather than comment, to receive rather than to impose, all in the belief that as our anxieties and distractions diminish, they are replaced with the blessing of God's presence.

Let this season of Lent be for you a period of prayer and a welcome of the transition that God has in mind for Redeemer: from strength to strength, from blessing to blessing, from glory to glory. I look forward to the chance to visit with you again, and to hear great news coming from Knight Drive.

God's peace go with you,
Father Steve

Senior Warden's Letter

Farewell! We said Farewell and Thank You to Rev. Steve Hassett on Sunday, January 27th. I don't believe there is one of us who did not find food for thought and gain knowledge and understanding of one or more passages in the bible from his preaching these past several months. The relationship was a good one and enriched both Steve and our parishioners.

Now a new chapter begins at Redeemer. The excitement of new beginnings is always present, though apprehension is certainly understandable. The strength of our Redeemer Family was shown strongly this past Saturday evening at the dinner after our tour of the Tanks and Trains. I have marveled in the past at the strength and resilience that exists in this parish. The commitment of the members of this family may not be unique, but the feeling of "family" was tangible on Saturday evening.

Michael Barlowe will be giving the Bishop's Committee the names of several priests who are candidates interested in serving as Interim Vicar at Redeemer. Be assured that we will move swiftly to find someone to be with us as we move forward to the search that will bring us a long term Vicar.

Much work lies ahead for the Bishop's Committee and the Search Committee which we will need to form. All parishioners will be asked to participate in giving their views on both the direction our church wishes to go and the programs, mission and outreach that are important to our church family.

Your Jr. and Sr. Wardens, together with Steve, recently met with the leadership of the Preschool and their board. We pledged a new effort to work together to grow the entire Redeemer Community - to market ourselves and serve this community in new ways. You will see elsewhere in this newsletter that we are working together to fund the Lion Dance celebration of Chinese New Year.

Stay tuned, this won't be dull and everyone's input is necessary and desired. If you have any questions, please contact me or any member of the Bishop's Committee. I look forward to us working together for the future.

Sue Clark -454-4115

Bishop's Committee News

At the Annual Meeting, held on January 20th, Linda Fox, Jim Providenza and Greg Poulos were unanimously elected to serve three year terms on the Bishop's Committee.

Sally Garbarino and Mary Sparks were thanked for their service these past three years. Sally's contributions to the church have been many - from funding the lawn mowing for the past several years, to window washing, and purchase of beautiful linens for our altar.

Mary Sparks has asked the simple/hard questions, frequently kept the Bishop's Committee "centered" and went out with a bang this past weekend with the inspiration and energy she gave to organize our "Tanks, Trains and Spaghetti Fundraiser" (great fun and good funds).

Jim Providenza had served slightly less than one year (during which he chaired our Stewardship campaign.) The Bishop's committee welcomes him to a "full" term.

SUPPLY PRIEST SCHEDULE

February 3: Rev. Skip Fotch

February 10: Rev. Heather Van Deventer

February 17: Rev. Heather Van Deventer

February 24: Rev. Skip Fotch

March 2: Rev. Donald Schell

We are fortunate to be able to welcome back **Skip Fotch** for two Sundays, and I know many of you will be delighted to hear the energetic preaching of **Donald Schell**, for what will be his third visit to Redeemer. **Heather Van Deventer** was recommended to us by the Rev. Lynn Oldham Robinett. Heather has the experience of presiding at the Kids' Church + other services at Holy Innocents, Corte Madera.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Ash Wednesday, February 6th

Services will be held at 6:30 am, Noon and 6:30 pm
Special thanks to our Lay Ministers, Joan Westmoreland, Cathy Kirk and Paula Zand for their ministry at these services.



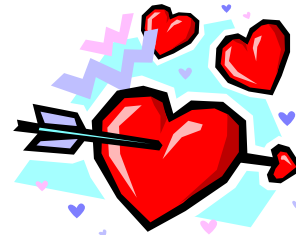
Chinese New Year Lion Dance Saturday, February 11th

Join us at 11:30 at the church (outside if it's a nice day, inside if it's raining) for a festive Lion Dance to usher in the Year of the Rat, co-sponsored by the Chung Family and the Teresa Chan, Director of the Redeemer Pre-school.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Katie Clark
- 3 Jim Providenza
- 10 Betty Baird
- 10 Helene Erler
- 11 Mike Providenza
- 13 John Clark
- 14 Joe Garbarino
- 15 Dana Clark
- 18 Isabelle Ellingson-Moody
- 26 Nicholas Duro
- 28 Carl T. Schuler



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Elliott & Liesje Blank 1987
- 14 Lesley Anderson/Paula Zand 1993

WEDNESDAY WOMEN'S BOOKCLUB

The hostess provides drinks and dessert.
Attendees should bring a sandwich and RSVP to the hostess each month.

February 13th: *I can't Wait to Get to Heaven*, by Fannie Flagg; at Sydney Kennedy's home (454-0526) at noon.

March 12th: *Suite Francaise*, by Irene Nemirovsky at Cindy Smith's home (456-1733) at noon.



SAINTS AND ANGELS

Every now and then we pause to thank those people in our church who have gone that "extra mile" to make Redeemer a better place:

Elliott and Cody Blank for reassembling our "plastic" shed after the really big storm blew it apart;

Sally Garbarino for underwriting the grass mowing and blowing throughout all of 2007 and for having the sidewalks pressure-washed recently;

Kim Johnson and Liz Chiarolla for their work on publicity and for the design and production of the monthly "big" signs;

Elliott Blank for installing the monthly "big" signs on our billboard;

Fr. Steve Hassett, Theresa Chan and Pete Davis for their work towards building an ongoing relationship between the preschool and church;

Joe and Sally Garbarino for hosting our wonderful "Tanks, Trucks and Spaghetti Fundraiser", held last Saturday evening at the Marin Recycling Center. Kudos also to Mary Sparks and Kim Johnson for their organization of the event, and, many thanks to Jim Providenza, John Chung, and Rudy Erler for cooking up such a fabulous feast, and to Jeff English, Lesley Anderson, and Liesje and Elliott Blank for cleaning up for everyone. There are undoubtedly other folk who should be thanked for their part in making it such a huge success – give yourself a pat on the back!

(If there's someone in the community who you think should be recognized for their contribution to the life of Redeemer, please let us know! Contact Cathy Kirk – 457-3841.)

DIOCESAN YOUTH EVENTS FOR 2008

Happening! Is April 18-20 at the Marin Headlands Center.



Happening! is an annual youth retreat weekend sponsored by the Diocese. The weekend is planned for and led by youth (with the assistance and on-site supervision of adult volunteers), and includes food, fun, music, prayer, and witness to the challenge and excitement of following Jesus in the world today.

This year's **Happening!** is taking place at the Marin Headlands Institute, which is about the coolest location you can imagine for the retreat, and will take place the weekend of April 18-20.

If you or your teen has never done a **Happening!** weekend, this would be a GREAT year to start. To find out more, you can visit the Diocesan Youth ministry's web page at:

<http://isite79454.web05.intellisite.com/272783.ihtml>

From there, you can register, sign up for youth leadership positions, and sample the musical stylings of Sam Hensley, who will be leading the music for the weekend. Contact information is listed on the website if you have other questions or concerns.

In addition, the menu on the left side of the page includes a whole list of other events happening in 2008, sponsored by the Diocese, and open to all Diocesan youth (and their friends!).

(This, from Elliott Blank, our liaison to)

The Episcopal Commission for the Environment

“Don’t Stop at the Lights!”
(The fluorescent ones that is)

The Episcopal Commission for the Environment is encouraging people of faith to go beyond the beneficial energy-saving lights campaign, to help energy conservation and earth-saving activities everywhere.

We all can help, as individuals, as a congregation, and as a positive influence in our community. Materials and information will be shared in the back of the church, including “How many light bulbs does it take to change a Christian?” and other energy-saving ideas. Many resources for helping the environment are available on the internet, and listings can be found in the back.

Redeemer is already moving to lessen our environmental footprint, and has a Champion of Recycling in our midst, in Joe Garbarino. We can all help in our own way, whether we change a light bulb, or reshape our daily life around energy-saving and bettering the environment. Please help, and thanks . . . Some thoughts below:

- Reuse shopping bags when visiting the market and don’t use plastic bags. Remember there is no “away” anymore, as in “throwing away”, for it all ends up in somebody’s backyard, somewhere on the globe
- Install fluorescent lights/lighting wherever possible
- Earth Sunday is April 20 - Help out and participate in earth friendly projects
- Use personal water bottles, and use less plastic bottled water when possible
- Use energy conserving Energy Star appliances
- Talk to kids about recycling and conserving energy, turn off lights, appliances, computers, TVs, and stereos when not in use, and keep the refrigerator door closed

The Next Marin Cursillo Weekends are

Men’s Cursillo – April 3-6

Women’s Cursillo – April 17-20

(Our own Liesje Blank will be serving on this women’s team!)

WHAT IS A CURSILLO?

A “Cursillo de Cristiandad” is simply a short course in Christian living. A typical Cursillo weekend is attended by about 40-60 people. Christians of all denominations are welcome.

WHAT WILL I BE DOING ON THE WEEKEND?

Reflecting on the values & goals of a Christian life. Celebrating these in meditations, liturgies, song, meals, & laughter. Listening to talks & participating in discussions. Experiencing Christian love & community in many different ways.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME?

To commit to exploring your faith. To be open & willing to respond to what you experience. To arrive on the Thursday evening & stay & participate until late Sunday afternoon.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Information is available at www.marincursillo.org Or talk to others in the parish (Jim Providenza and Terri Leinsteiner, Jay and Maureen Wayne, Elliott and Liesje Blank, Sydney Kennedy, Joan and John Westmoreland, Gail Spencer, and Cathy and Wayne Kirk,) who have already experienced it.



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Those who have already experienced Cursillo are encouraged to sponsor a candidate.

SPACE IS LIMITED SO START YOUR APPLICATION TODAY!

Redeemer Preschool Director's Report:

Annual Fundraiser—May 17, 2008

Please mark your calendar! It will take place at the **San Rafael Community Center at 618 B Street from 6:30—11:30 p.m.** Bring your friends to this fun-filled evening with music, sit down dinner, raffles, live/silent auction, bar and much more. . .

WE NEED ITEMS FOR THE AUCTION !!

We will need products, gift certificates, services or special events for the auction. More details of the event will be distributed soon.

Sunday, March 16, 2007 3:00—10:00 PM

Redeemer Night at the Crepevine Restaurant
50% of the proceeds will benefit the preschool
Join us for a late lunch or dinner with your fellow Redeemer families and staff, or plan a night out with your friends at this fabulous San Rafael restaurant on Fourth Street. Delicious dishes include savory and sweet crepes, salads, sandwiches, pasta, kids menu, beer and wine. A coupon will be distributed before the dinner event

New Board Members Needed:

Redeemer Preschool is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors consisting of three ex-officio members (church vicar, school director, chair-person of the parent association) and ten elected members. The Board has the independent authority to select its own staff, establish its own policy and maintain separate financial records.

Many board members will complete their two-year term soon and we invite our parents and community members to apply for new membership. We are seeking expertise in the fields of labor laws, construction, finance and early childhood education. Please contact Board President Pete Davis at Pjdavis71@comcast.net if you or someone you know are interested.

Parents' Workshop

On Wednesday, February 13th, at 6:30 pm at the Church, we will have a Parent Workshop for ALL parents. John Gunnarson, M.Ed., will be our speaker/facilitator, to discuss:

- How young children learn and what parents can do to support their child's learning.
- How to connect the disposition, knowledge and skills for preschool children (ages 2-5) and how to tie them together.

For more information call Teresa at the Redeemer Preschool: 457-9500.